

# HURRICANES

## HURRICANE IRENE

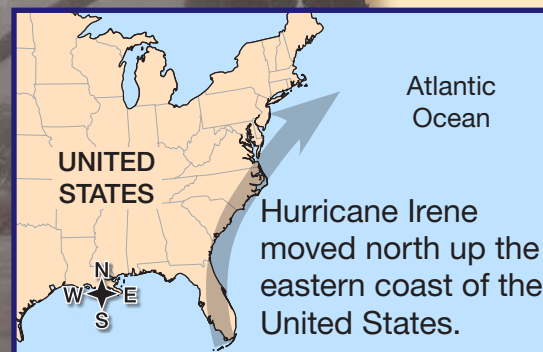
AUGUST 20-28, 2011

**H**urricane Irene was a giant storm! It was twice as big as most hurricanes.

Hurricane Irene brought fast moving air. The wind moved water in the ocean. It made big waves. The waves were three times taller than a person!

The hurricane also picked up a lot of water from the ocean. Rain fell for many days. Roads were filled with water. People could not drive.

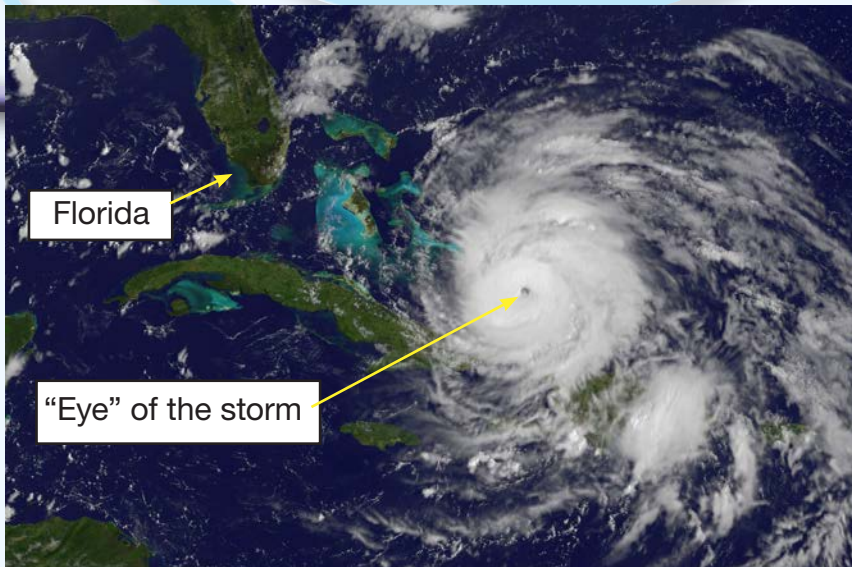
Hurricane winds can move faster than a high-speed train.



Hurricane Irene's rain flooded cities.

# Spinning Storms

Hurricanes are giant windstorms. Their natural winds move in circles. Most hurricanes happen in summer and fall. Hurricanes need warm air and warm water to form. Both of these are found in oceans near the equator. All hurricanes begin over oceans.



The middle of a hurricane is called the "eye" of the storm. Winds are calm in a hurricane's eye.

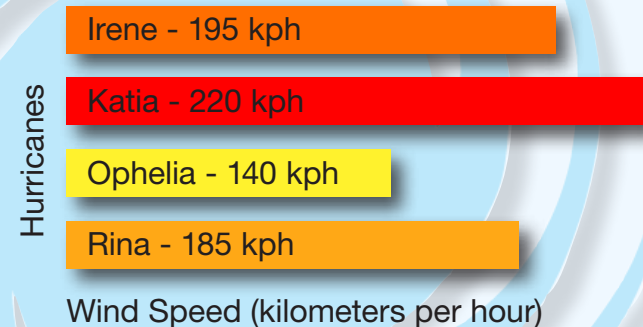


Scientists use machines in space, called *satellites*, to watch for hurricanes.

## Which Way Will It Go?

Scientists use machines to watch hurricanes. They predict the wind's speed and direction. Knowing this helps people get out of the way of the storm.

### Wind Speeds of Major Hurricanes in 2011



Think About It

Hurricanes are named in ABC order each year. The first one starts with an "A," the second with a "B," and so on. What number was Hurricane Irene in 2011?